

# **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RECORD EASTERN INTERIOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

***Meeting Location:*** Steese Road House, Central, Alaska

***Meeting Date:*** May 22, 2008

***Purpose:*** Identify public issues and concerns with BLM managed lands in the Eastern Interior Planning Area.

***Number of public in attendance:*** 9

***BLM personnel in attendance:*** Lenore Heppler (Manager), Jeanie Cole (Planning), and Larry Jackson (Minerals).

## ***Meeting format:***

**5-7 pm:** Open house with maps and other information on display. BLM staff discussed maps with the public and answered questions. The public had the opportunity to review maps of land status, Recreation opportunity spectrum, and OHV designation in the Steese and White Mountain subunits. Attendees were introduced to why we are doing a new RMP, what an RMP does, and given examples of decisions that might come out of an RMP through short presentation. BLM staff answered questions. Participants were asked to express their concerns and issues with BLM-managed public lands.

**Handouts:** An Interested Party letter explaining the types of decisions made in the RMP and giving an overview of the initial steps in planning was available. In addition, a set of frequently asked questions, copies of the existing RMPs for the Steese, White Mountains and Fortymile, and brochures on the Steese and White Mountains management units and the 17b easement process were available. A scoping comment sheet that could either be filled out at the meeting or returned to BLM at a later date was also available.

## ***Issues/Questions/Concerns:***

### ***Access:***

- Ensure access across public land for mineral or other development, hunting, and recreation.
- Keep existing routes open such as Portage Road, Harrison Creek Road, and Frying Pan Creek Road. These trails should remain open to the public.
- A boat launch for larger boats is needed at Lower Birch Creek public access point @ 140 mile crossing – where the canoe launch is. It is deep enough there to launch powerboats. Powerboats are allowed on the river.
- Handicap access is needed for Birch Creek. Public access is for everyone, it should be accessible.

- Check the status of the RS2477 Portage road from Circle Hot Springs to Steese Highway. This road should be open to public use.

**Withdrawals and Mining:**

- The community is supportive of opening parts of the Steese to locatable mineral entry.

**Process:**

- Hold meetings earlier in the spring, maybe late March or April, or late fall (end of September/early October), just before people leave for the winter. People are busy mining May through September. There are Sixty-four full time residents. Advertise at the Steese Roadhouse and the post office. Everyone goes to these two spots.